

Serial No. 09/972,990
Response dated October 16, 2003 in
Reply to Final Action of September 5, 2003

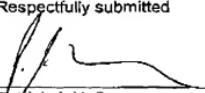
REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In the specification, Paragraph Nos. 0022 and 0023 have been amended to correspond with currently amended Claims 1 and 2. Also, Paragraph No. 0035 has been amended to ensure that the detailed description of the subject application likewise corresponds with currently amended Claims 1 and 2.

Claims 1-34 are pending in this application. In the aforementioned telephone conference, Examiner Truong acknowledged that the current amendment to Claim 1 is directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 2 is currently amended to properly correspond with changes to the antecedent basis in Claim 1. Claims 6-16 are no longer withdrawn from consideration since, as aforesaid, the Examiner has acknowledged that generic Claim 1 is directed to allowable subject matter.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the preceding amendments and/or remarks with a view toward timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If after reviewing this response, the Examiner believes that a telephone or personal interview would facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters, the undersigned attorney may be contacted at the number set forth hereinbelow.

Respectfully submitted


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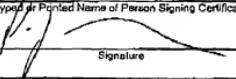
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this 7 page Response (exclusive of cover sheet) for Application Serial No. 09/972,990 is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. 1-703-872-9306) on October 16, 2003.

Patrick J. Hofbauer
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Signature